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Dear Coastlines Reader:

Welcome to the 2003 edition of *Coastlines*, the annual magazine of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). We appreciate all the feedback we received from readers of the summer 2002 edition and have incorporated many of your suggestions. For monthly news on coastal issues, our electronic newsletter, *CZ-Mail*, has proven very popular. If you are interested in receiving this electronic update, please email czmnews@state.ma.us with your contact information.

For this edition, we have chosen to feature the shipping industry. Long before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, shipping has been a cornerstone of the region's culture, economic prosperity, and history. In the past four centuries, shipping has changed dramatically, but it remains a vital part of the Bay State's economy, connecting Massachusetts with markets around the world. Our goal is to support a robust maritime trade industry and healthy, vibrant marine ecosystems. We hope you'll find the array of articles on these topics informative. As always, please feel free to contact us with any comments.

Sincerely,

Tom Skinner

Director

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

